

Vermont Blueprint for Health

The vision of the Vermont Blueprint for health is that Vermont will have a comprehensive, proactive system of care that improves the quality of life for people with or at risk for chronic conditions. A major area of emphasis in the Blueprint is that Vermonters with chronic conditions will be effective managers of their own health. For the past year, the asthma program has been incorporated into the Blueprint. The following is a summary of progress of the Blueprint since its start in 2005:

- Two hospital service areas were selected as pilot communities: Southwestern Medical Center in Bennington and Northeastern Regional Hospital in St. Johnsbury. Grants were awarded to fund local project managers to oversee implementation in both pilot communities. The Blueprint has now expanded to four additional communities.
- Grants were awarded to both pilot communities to develop neighborhood walking programs.
- Since 2005, 223 people have completed the “Healthier Living Workshop” developed by Stanford University and adopted by the Blueprint. This highly-acclaimed, evidence-based course teaches successful self-management of chronic conditions through a variety of techniques. At least 30 people have been trained to be workshop leaders throughout the state. To date, 38 of the enrolled participants listed asthma as their most important chronic condition.
- The Vermont Health Record, a web-based patient registry, is being tested by physician offices in pilot communities and other locations throughout the state. The registry will allow providers to proactively manage their patients’ care, calling them in for needed care without relying on patients’ memories. The Vermont Health Record will also give providers more complete information during visits.
- More than 75% of adult primary care providers in the pilot communities have signed up to participate in the pilot program. With the help of the Blueprint, providers are learning how to deliver effective proactive care to patients with chronic conditions.
- Standardized measures were developed to support payment reform in order to enhance collaboration between insurance carriers. An inventory and assessment of disease management services offered by Vermont insurance carriers is currently underway.
- The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality of the federal Department of Health and Human Services is providing invaluable assistance in helping to design an evaluation strategy for the Blueprint.

More information on the Blueprint can be found at:

<http://healthvermont.gov/blueprint.aspx>